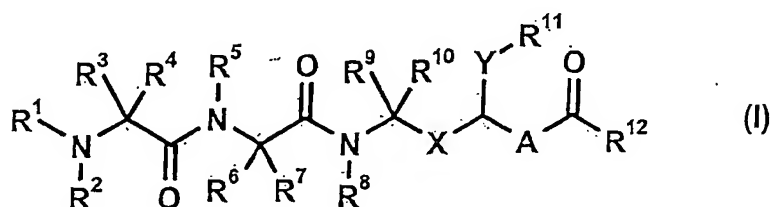


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-6. (cancelled)

Claim 7. (currently amended) A compound of the general formula U-V-W, wherein U refers to the formula (I),



wherein

A is an optionally substituted 5- or 6-membered heteroarylen ring;

X is an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, or a group of the formula NR¹³ or CR¹⁴R¹⁵;

Y is an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom or a group of the formula NR¹⁶,

R¹, R², R³, R⁴, R⁵, R⁶, R⁷, R⁸, R⁹, R¹⁰, R¹¹, R¹², R¹³, R¹⁴, R¹⁵ and R¹⁶ are independently of each other H, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, heteroalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, cycloalkyl, alkylcycloalkyl, heteroalkylcycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, aralkyl or heteraaralkyl,

or two of R¹, R², R³, R⁴, R⁵, R⁶, R⁷, R⁸, R⁹, R¹⁰, R¹¹, R¹², R¹³, R¹⁴, and R¹⁵ and R¹⁶ constitute part of a cycloalkyl or heterocycloalkyl ring system;

V is a linker and W is a polymer or a biomolecule.

Claim 8. (Currently amended) A compound of claim 7 ~~where in~~ wherein the compound of the formula (I) is Tubulysin A.

Claim 9. (previously presented) A compound of claim 7 wherein the polymer is a polyethylene glycol.

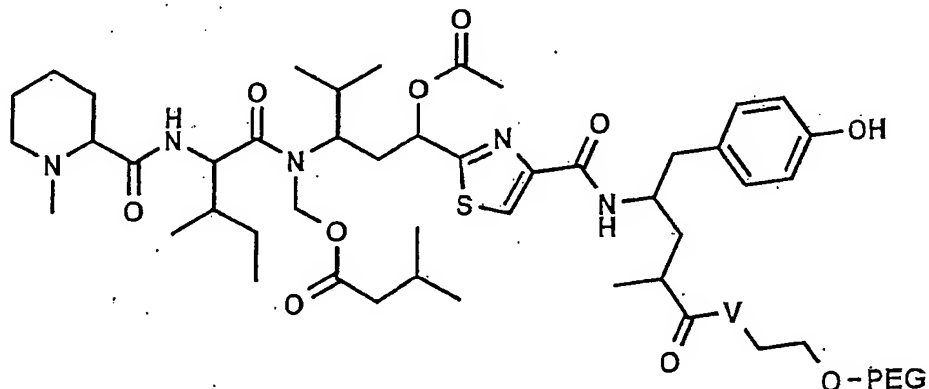
Claim 10. (previously presented) A compound of claim 9 wherein the polyethylene glycol has a molecular weight of more than 30 kDa.

Claim 11. (cancelled)

Claim 12. (previously presented) A method for treating a patient suffering cancer, comprising administering to the patient one or more compounds of claim 7.

Claim 13. (previously presented) The method of claim 12 wherein the patient is identified as suffering from cancer and the one or more compounds are administered to the identified patient.

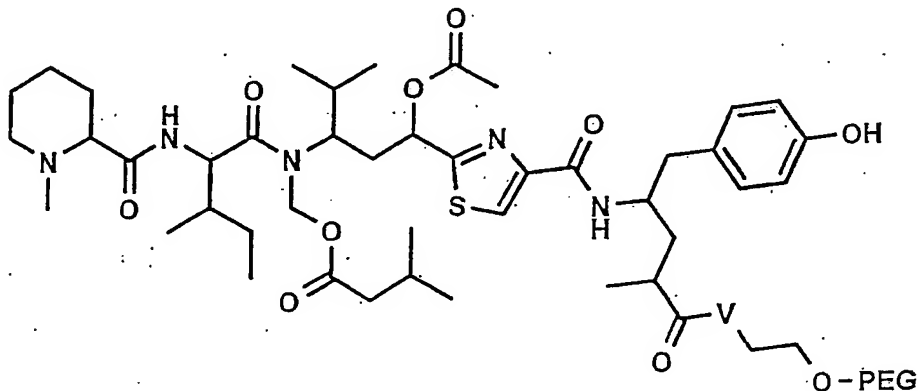
Claim 14. (previously presented) A compound of claim 7 having the following formula:



wherein V is an oxygen atom; a NH group; a group of the formula $-O-(CR^aR^b)_n-O-$ where R^a and R^b are independently C_1-C_6 alkyl groups or together part of cycloalkyl group and n is 1 or 2; $-NH-R^c-NH-CO-CH_2-O-$; $-O-R^c-O-CH_2-O-$; or a group of the formula $-O-R^c-O-$ where R^c is alkylene, arylene or a cycloalkylene group.

Claim 15. (previously presented) The compound of claim 14 wherein V is oxygen.

Claim 16. (previously presented) The method of claim 12 wherein a compound having the following formula is administered:



wherein V is an oxygen atom; a NH group; a group of the formula $-O-(CR^aR^b)_h-O-$ where R^a and R^b are independently C_1 - C_6 alkyl groups or together part of cycloalkyl group and n is 1 or 2; $-NH-R^c-NH-CO-CH_2-O-$; $-O-R^c-O-CH_2-O-$; or a group of the formula $-O-R^c-O-$ where R^c is alkylene, arylene or a cycloalkylene group.

Claim 17. (previously presented) The method of claim 16 wherein V is oxygen.

Claim 18. (previously presented) The method of claim 16 wherein V is a NH group

Claim 19. (previously presented) The method of claim 16 wherein V is a group of the formula $-O-(CR^aR^b)_h-O-$.

Claim 20. (previously presented) The method of claim 7 wherein V is an oxygen atom; a NH group; a group of the formula $-O-(CR^aR^b)_n-O-$ where R^a and R^b are independently C_1 - C_6 alkyl groups or together part of cycloalkyl group and n is 1 or 2; $-NH-R^c-NH-CO-CH_2-O-$; $-O-R^c-O-CH_2-O-$; or a group of the formula $-O-R^c-O-$ where R^c is alkylene, arylene or a cycloalkylene group.

Claim 21. (previously presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the polyethylene glycol has a molecular weight of 30kDa.

Claim 22. (previously presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the polyethylene glycol has a molecular weight of 35kDa.